'SOUR GRAPES' JIBE OVER CUP INQUIRY

WYCOMBE WANDERERS F.C. yesterday (Tuesday) denied charges of "sour grapes" over their post-match inquiry to the Football Association about Skelmersdale United's goalkeeper, Peter Frankish, in the Amateur Cup quarter-final, won 3-0 by the Northern side at Loakes Park on Saturday.

Wycombe officials wrote to Lancaster Gate asking whether or not Frankish, a recent Skelmersdale signing, was eligible to play.

The F.A.'s cup committee, after considering the matter at a meeting on Monday evening, ruled in the Skem's favour, and their semi-final tie against Leatherhead at Bolton Wanderers' ground consequently goes ahead as scheduled this Saturday.

Could have been a replay

Had Wycombe's inquiry shown that Frankish should not have been used, Skelmersdale would have been forced to travel back to Loakes Park to replay the match.

On Monday morning, when the news of Wanderers' move came to light, Mr. Bill Gregson, Skelmersdale chairman, along with his fellow officials and manager Roy Rees, were quick to refute doubts over Frankish.

Mr. Gregson accused Wycombe of "sour grapes". But his counterpart, Wanderers' chairman, Mr. Jack Smethurst, denied this. "This is not our

Mike Whitesman reports

policy," he said. "We had to make the inquiry to the F.A. because of the number of rumours flying about."

How it all happened

The relevant facts in the case concerning Frankish are as follow:

Skelmersdale's regular goalkeeper, international star, Terry Crosbie, broke his arm in his side's third-round replay win over Tow Law Town—the victory which put them through to the last eight and a visit to Loakes Park.

Reserve goalkeeper Colin Donnelly took over in place of Crosbie for several matches, but after some poor results, Frankish was drafted in late last week for the cup clash at Wycombe.

Despite the confusion surrounding him, Frankish had, noted the F.A. on Monday, appeared for Skelmersdale in a Liverpool County Combination game on February 13, and thus met the qualifying time limit.

(See full story, back page.)